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STATE ELECTION, AUGUST 1, 1859.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATIONS.

FOR GOVERNOR,
HON. BIRIAH MAGOFFIN, of Mercer.

LIEUT. GOVERNOR,
HON. LINN BOYD, of McCracken.

AUDITOR,
GRANT GREENE, of Henderson.

TREASURER,
JAMES H. GARRICK, of Franklin.

SUPERINTENDENT PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
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REGISTER LAND OFFICE,
THOMAS J. FRAZER, of Breathitt.

PRESIDENT BOARD INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS,
JAMES P. BATES, of Barren.

ATTORNEY GENERAL,
A. J. JAMES, of Franklin.

FOR CONGRESS—**SAINTH DISTRICT**,
COL. THOS. H. HOLT, of Louisville.

LOUISVILLE:
MONDAY JULY 4, 1859.

Reading Matter on Every Page.

The Fourth of July—Our Country Then and Now.

The Declaration of American Independence is eighty three years old to-day. The authors of this sacred instrument have all gone down to the grave, and there are few men living whose memory extends over so long a period. Let us for a moment think with those who thus link us with the past, and pass in review some events in our history dear to be forgotten.

When hostilities broke out between this country and England, and the first blood of the war was shed at Lexington, April 19th, 1775, there were not many of our fathers who seriously thought of a separation of the Colonies from the mother country. Mr. Wirt says that Patrick Henry entertained the thought, and expressed it as early as 1773, but history shows that such a thought was not general. The colonists were loyal to the mother country, and the thought of separation was suggested by the events of the revolution, which were not foreseen by even the wisest of those times.

The first Colonial Congress assembled at Carpenter's Hall, in Philadelphia, September 5th, 1774.

Nothing was done during its session which looked directly to a separation of the Colonies from the mother country. The members were chosen to devise means of alleviating the grievances under which the Colonies labored, but they did not propose independence as a remedy.

On the 10th of May, the Colonial Congress again assembled at the State House in Philadelphia, and on the 1st of August adjourned to the 6th of September. Pursuant to adjournment, this body again met, but nothing was done until the 13th of September, 1775, in consequence of there not being a sufficient number of members present to enter upon business. The work of the separation of the colonies from England began and progressed in earnest at this third session of the Colonial Congress.

The first significant act in the great drama of independence was a resolution drawn up by a committee, at the head of which was John Adams. It was adopted by Congress, May 10th, 1776, in the following words:

"Resolved, That the several Assemblies and Conventions of the United Colonies, where no government sufficient to the exigencies of their affairs had hitherto been established to adopt such a government as shall, in the opinion of the representatives of the people, best conduce to the safety and welfare of these colonies, in particular, and America in general."

But a more significant and decided movement was that of Richard Henry Lee, June 7th, 1776, who proposed the following resolution:

"That THESE UNITED COLONIES ARE, and OF RIGHT OUGHT TO BE, FREE, AND INDEPENDENT STATES; AND THAT ALL POLITICAL CONNECTION BETWEEN US AND THE BRITISH EMPIRE IS AND OUGHT TO BE ABSOLUTELY DISOLVED."

The bill of independence was then fairly in motion. Mr. Lee's resolution was laid over for consideration in Committee of the Whole, July 1st. In the meantime, a committee was appointed, June 11th, to draw up a declaration in accordance with the resolution of Mr. Lee. This committee consisted of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert Livingston. Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration, and it was presented to Congress in his hand-writing, with a few interlinings by John Adams and Benjamin Franklin.

On the 2d of July the resolution of Mr. Lee was passed by Congress, and on the 4th the Declaration of Independence was adopted. The Declaration was then ordered to be engrossed and signed by the fifty-six members. It was further ordered that copies of it be sent to the several assemblies, conventions, and committees or councils of safety, and to the several commanding officers of the Continental troops, and that it be proclaimed in each of the United States, and at the head of the army.

When the Declaration was adopted the population of the United States was about 5,000,000. In 55 years this number has been swelled to over 40,000,000. At the same rate of increase our population would be 500,000,000 in the same length of time, ending on the 4th of July, 1942.

Our territorial domain has kept pace with the increase of population. When the Declaration was adopted our whole country consisted of thirteen States and five Territories, or appendages to these States. One of these Territories belonged to Georgia, a second to North Carolina, a third to Virginia, a fourth to Massachusetts, and a fifth was claimed by both New York and New Hampshire. The thirteen States, including the five Territories, were as follows, with their geographical dimensions in square miles annexed:

New Hampshire..... 9,600
Massachusetts..... 47,000
Maine included..... 8,766
Rhode Island..... 757
Connecticut..... 4,674
New York..... 47,000
New Jersey..... 10,212
New Hampshire..... 57,012
Pennsylvania..... 54,240
Delaware..... 2,120
Maryland..... 11,242
Virginia..... 61,220
North Carolina..... 50,704
Tennessee included..... 45,000
Georgia..... 56,304
South Carolina..... 59,360
Georgia..... 58,600
Alabama included..... 47,158
Mississippi..... 15,458
Total area..... 617,297

It now only remains to note the additions which, from time to time, have been made to the original public domain, and to enumerate the different States which have been added to the Union, until the original number of thirteen has been swelled to thirty-three.

Oregon (including the Territory now known as Washington) was discovered by Capt. Gray, of Boston, in 1772. The British also set up a right by discovery and occupancy to this country. The conflicting claims were adjusted by the treaty of 1846, when the right of the United States was admitted to the 49th parallel, and to embrace 302,652 square miles.

The purchase of the Louisiana Territory was made by President Jefferson in 1803. The public domain acquired by this magnificent purchase embraced no less than 593,579 square miles, now occupied by the States of Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, and the Territories of Nebraska, Kansas, and the Indian Reserve. It was a domain greater than the entire original United States, with all their Territories, and embraced every variety of climate and soil in the Union. It cost this Government 60,000,000, or about \$12,000,000.

Our next acquisition of territory was that of Florida, in 1821. This purchase was made by James Monroe. By it we acquired not only 59,268 square miles of territory, but got control of the Gulf of Mexico. Previous to this acquisition from Spain, the States of Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, did not border upon the Gulf. A long line of Spanish territory, known as West Florida, intervened, and cut them off from this noble body of water, into which is now poured the commerce

of 20,000 miles of navigable rivers, and 8,000 of southern railroad.

Texas was next acquired during the Administration of James K. Polk, in 1845. By the annexation of Texas we acquired 237,504 square miles of territory, among which may be found some of the finest lands sown up by the kindest sun, and blessed by the best climate in the world. The articles of annexation provide that Texas may be subdivided into four States, besides the present, thus making five States with an average area of over 47,000 square miles—each State as large as New York—next to the largest of the original thirteen.

Our next acquisition was the State of California, and the Territories of Utah and New Mexico, under President Polk, by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, in 1848. By this treaty we acquired 692,157 square miles of territory. This was our last acquisition of territory, and the total of square miles added to the original confederacy, from the Declaration to this time, will be found to be 2,138,157. This is more than double, and nearly three times the total area of the original thirteen States and five Territories.

During the same period we have added twenty new States to the original thirteen. The following are the additions in the regular order of time:

Vermont 1791, Kentucky 1792, Tennessee 1796, Ohio 1802, Louisiana 1812, Indiana 1816, Mississippi 1817, Illinois 1818, Alabama 1819, Missouri and Maine 1820, Michigan and Arkansas 1836, Texas, Florida and Iowa 1845, Wisconsin 1848, California 1850, Minnesota 1858, and Oregon 1859.

The Mayville Express.

We are glad to learn that the Mayville Express, one of the best Democratic papers in the State, is more prosperous than ever. Since that excellent paper took the right position upon the question of slavery, as connected with the Territories, some Abolitionists, Black Republicans and Squatter Sovereigns, disguised as Democrats, have been trying to injure it. These enemies have succeeded in getting five persons to disown the Express, while just one hundred times that number have become subscribers to the paper.—The Express has, in other words, added five hundred to its subscription list since the first of May last, when its talented editor, Robert McKee, came out boldly for the power of Congress to protect slavery in the Territories, and for its duty to exercise this power whenever necessary.

The experience of the Express has been our own. Since the Courier took position on the territorial question, it has lost one thousand subscribers, and has gained nearly one thousand. It gains here have therefore been as a thousand to one of its losses upon this single question. We don't think our position on the slavery question should have caused us to lose the single subscriber who quit us; but we have no cause to complain, as we get a thousand in place of the one. We are willing to share the same fate upon every question of the age, and upon the same terms we will take the right position upon a new question every day in the year.

The Democratic Standard.

Some days ago the Louisville Democrat said that the Hon. Edmund Burke was editor of the Democratic Standard, published at Concord, New Hampshire. We replied that John B. Palmer, Esq., was the editor of that excellent paper, and our reply was the truth. It seems, however, that certain political articles, which we have admired and re-published with a full endorsement, were furnished to the Standard by Mr. Burke. As any gentleman who is sound enough Democrat, intelligent enough statesman and full enough writer to pen those articles ought to have the credit of them, especially in the South, to whom Constitutional rights they particularly refer, we take pleasure in publishing the fact. The Standard says:

"In connection with this paragraph it becomes necessary for us to correct an error into which our friend of the Louisville Courier has fallen. We do it as an act of justice to the gentleman alluded to in the Courier, the Hon. Edmund Burke, who was frequently consulted by us."

It is true, and we rejoice in the opportunity of proclaiming the fact to our brethren in the South and West, that Mr. Burke is the author of all those articles which have appeared in the Democratic Standard during the last three years, and which have been so widely copied and commended by our brethren of the South and Southwest in this State.

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